



To all Parents and Carers

## **Kimberley School - contingency planning for an enforced closure of the school.**

You will be aware that there is speculation in the press that one of the measures that the government may take to slow the spread of Coronavirus is to close schools.

At this stage there is no indication that this will happen but it is important that we have plans in place in case this does happen. The government have instructed all schools that we should only close if instructed to do so by Public Health England.

If schools are closed, then it will present challenges to the country as well as to individuals and families. Please be reassured that we fully understand that during any closure it will be our responsibility to ensure that we do what is in our power to continue to provide a service to our community; and to ensure that there is minimum disruption to students' education.

I am sure that everyone will understand that our priority has to be to students who are preparing for exams in the summer. Therefore, our plans have been centred on prioritising these students and ensuring that teachers have the capacity during a school closure to put in place the education they will need to enable them to continue to prepare for summer exams. Putting this in place successfully for exam groups will take a disproportionate amount of time for teachers and this is why we are taking differing approaches to Key Stages 3,4 and 4 when setting work across the school.

At this stage these are our plans (days refer to school days).

- On day 1 of a school closure we would send out information to parents and students by email setting out how to access and use Show My Homework remotely
- On day 2 (or earlier if possible) of a school closure, teachers will set work on Show My Homework for students in Year 11, 12, 13 and 10 in line with timetabled lessons. I.e. work will be set that will take students approximately 1 hour to complete for each timetabled lesson or alternatively longer tasks may be set to cover blocks of lessons. Teachers will give deadlines to students for the work and identify which work should be uploaded to Show My Homework for them to mark and give feedback on. Students will be able to contact their teacher through Show My Homework and teachers will respond to these during normal working hours.
- On day 2 (or earlier if possible) of school closure, teachers will start to set work for students in Years 7,8 and 9. This work will be project based and will be to develop students' wider understanding of subject areas. We have asked subjects to plan interesting and engaging projects that students in Years 7,8 and 9 can complete independently.

What can you as parents/carers do?

- At this stage there is nothing you can do other than continue to reassure your children that if the school does close this will happen nationally and that Kimberley is in a good place to minimise any disruption to their education if it does happen.
- It would be a good idea to check that you and your children do have access to show my homework, if you have any questions then please do contact the school reception who will direct you to someone who can help.
- Please be reassured that during any school closure we will continue to monitor the [Office@kimberleyschool.co.uk](mailto:Office@kimberleyschool.co.uk) account and that queries will be directed to staff who will be able to access their emails remotely. At this stage we do not know if we will be able to answer phone calls.
- Please also be reassured that we are mindful of the impact on students' mental health of the impact of any school closure. Our responsibility will be to set work but we do understand that you will need to manage this at home and to make sure that there is no negative impact on your children. I have asked all staff to be mindful of the language that they use when they are setting work and to ensure that all communication with students is reassuring and supportive.
- We have never done this before and we cannot plan for every eventuality. We will continue to use the website, email and text messaging to keep you updated throughout any school closure.
- If you think that your child is particularly vulnerable at the moment with the speculation in the press, then please do contact us if you need us to be aware of your concerns and put support in place for them.



What can you expect for your child when school opens again?

- Teachers of Years 10,11,12 and 13 will have been able to assess work during the school closure and will be well placed to work with classes and individuals to continue to prepare them for summer exams
- Teachers of Years 7,8 and 9 will be able to adjust planning to take account of the school closure so as to ensure that all students across all year groups can continue to make progress in all subjects
- Whilst I am sure they will want to do so for exam groups, teachers will not have the capacity to chase up and mark work for students in Years 7,8 and 9. This will just not be possible.

I have asked Year teams across the school to start to prepare students for the possibility of a school closure. There are two PowerPoint presentations that you may find it useful to go through with your children. One is for all students in 7,8 and 9. The other is for all students in 10,11,12 and 13.

Thank you for your continued support at this time. It is testament to this community and our staff that attendance has continued to be high at this difficult time. I do hope this letter reassures you that we have plans in place should we be forced to close.

Kind Regards

Andrew George  
Head Teacher